



The
**MAGNA
CARTA**

The Essence of Democracy



Curriculum Guide

Notes

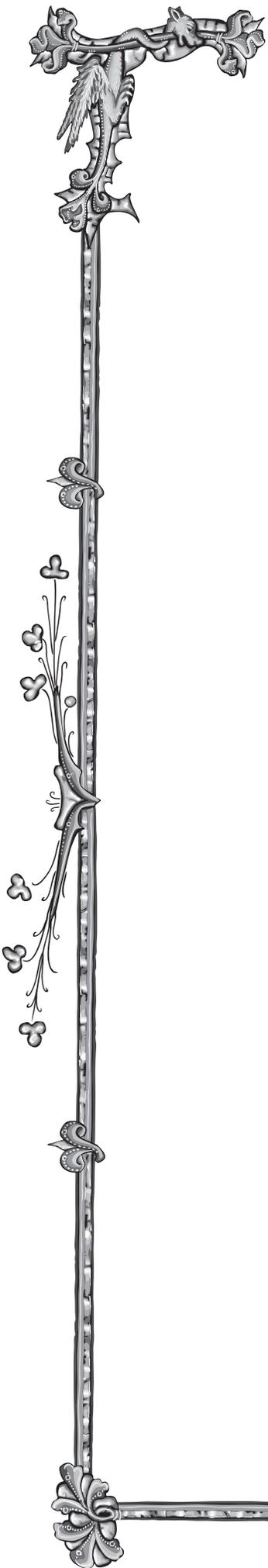




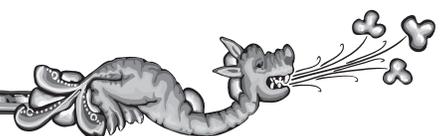
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The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum is proud to host a very special exhibit on *Magna Carta: The Essence of Democracy*. The highlight of the exhibit is one of only four copies of the original 1215 charter.

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Magna Carta and California Curriculum Standards



The Magna Carta is referred to in the California Curriculum Standards in each grade 7, 8, and 10.

In grades seven and ten the focus is on the historical developments in the Middle Ages and the historical and contemporary impact on expectations for individual liberties and self-government. References are also made in this context to the United States *Declaration of Independence*.

In grade eight students are expected to analyze the specific comparisons to and impact on the U.S. Constitution.

Standards:

- 7.6 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Europe.
- 5 Know the significance of developments in medieval English legal and constitutional practices and their importance in the rise of modern democratic thought and representative institutions (e.g., Magna Carta, parliament, development of habeas corpus, an independent judiciary in England).

Grade Eight:

- 8.2 Students analyze the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government.
- 1 Discuss the significance of the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights, and the Mayflower Compact.

Grade Ten:

- 10.2 Students compare and contrast the Glorious Revolution of England, the American Revolution, and the French Revolution and their enduring effects worldwide on the political expectations for self-government and individual liberty.
- 2 List the principles of the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights (1689), the American Declaration of Independence (1776), the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen (1789), and the U.S. Bill of Rights (1791).



Magna Carta Websites



Information

British Library - www.bl.uk/treasures/magnacarta/basics/basics.html

National Archives – www.archives.gov

BBC – http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/middle_ages/

Lincoln Cathedral – www.lincolncathedral.com

British Icons - <http://www.icons.org.uk/theicons/collection/magna-carta/features/the-british-constitution-finished>

Texts

Magna Carta translation – http://www.bl.uk/treasures/magnacarta/translation/mc_trans.html

Declaration of Independence – www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/freedom/doi/text.html

Lesson Plans

Magna Carta: Cornerstone of the U.S. Constitution – http://edsitement.neh.gov/printable_lesson_plan.asp?id+737

Founding Documents

National Constitution Center

www.Constitutioncenter.org

Games

Middle Ages Crossword – www.ozedweb.com/history/middle_ages_crossword.htm

Medieval Word Search – http://www.ozedweb.com/history/middle_ages_word_search.htm

Online Film

History Channel – This Day in History

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-hitory.do?action=VideoArticle&id=6929>



Before Visiting The Museum

Reading the Magna Carta:

Read an English translation of the Magna Carta (http://www.bl.uk/treasures/magnacarta/translation/mc_trans.html) and answer the following questions.

1. Which clauses in the Magna Carta refer to habeas corpus or protection against imprisonment without cause?
2. Which clause in the Magna Carta refers to property rights of women?
3. Which clause in the Magna Carta refers to marriage rights of women?
4. If you were living in the 13th century, what changes would you expect the Magna Carta to bring about if you were:
 - a) an earl
 - b) a widow
 - c) imprisoned without trial
 - d) a sheriff
 - e) a constable



5. **Research:** Were the changes listed in the Magna Carta followed by the king? Explain.

6. **Research:** Does England have a Constitution?

Use the following websites to help you research your answer.

<http://www.icons.org.uk/theicons/collection/magna-carta/features/the-british-constitution-finished>

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/magna_carta/legacy.html

7. **Think About It:** Why is the Magna Carta considered an important document?





Declaration of Independence

Read the following quote:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

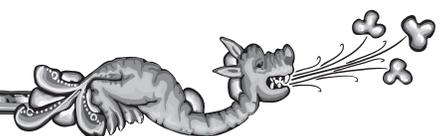
1. According to this quote, does a King or other political leader have absolute authority? Circle the section of the quote that backs up your response.
2. According to the quote, who provides the government with its power? Underline the section of the quote that backs up your response.
3. What are unalienable rights?
4. According to the quote, do all people have unalienable rights? Explain.
5. According to the quote, from where do people get their unalienable rights? Explain.



Read the Declaration of Independence:

Read *The Declaration of Independence* at www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/freedom/doi/text.html and answer the following questions.

1. Pick a grievance listed in the *Declaration of Independence*. Copy it in the space provided.
2. **Research:** Has the concern expressed in question 1 been incorporated in the *Declaration of Independence*? If so, how? If not, why not?
3. **Think About It:** If the United States had lost the War of Independence, would the *Declaration of Independence* have been an important document?
4. **Putting it Together:** Why is the Magna Carta considered a forerunner to the *Declaration of Independence*? Explain.





resident Vs. King



What is the difference between the American President and an absolute monarch?

Questions	President	Absolute Monarch
How is the position obtained?		
How long is the term in office?		
What other branches of government are there?		
Are there limits of authority? Explain.		



Essay:

Write a three-five paragraph essay using the information from your chart.
Include specific examples for your research and study.

A series of horizontal lines for writing an essay, consisting of 20 lines in total, starting from the top of the text area and extending down to the bottom of the page.

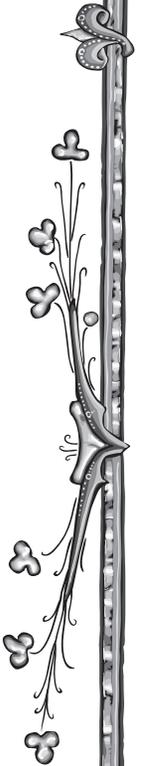




t The Museum

Look at each of the documents in the museum and answer the following questions.

1. Do the documents in the museum look like you expected them to look? Explain.
2. What is similar about the way the documents appear?
3. What is different about the way the documents appear?
4. What do you think accounts for the differences between the appearances of the documents?
5. Which is your favorite seal? Why?
6. Which family line did King John come from?
7. List three buildings in the United States which have pictures representing the Magna Carta.





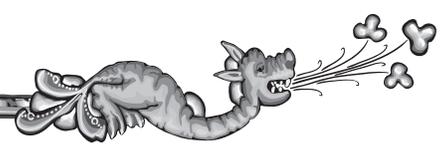
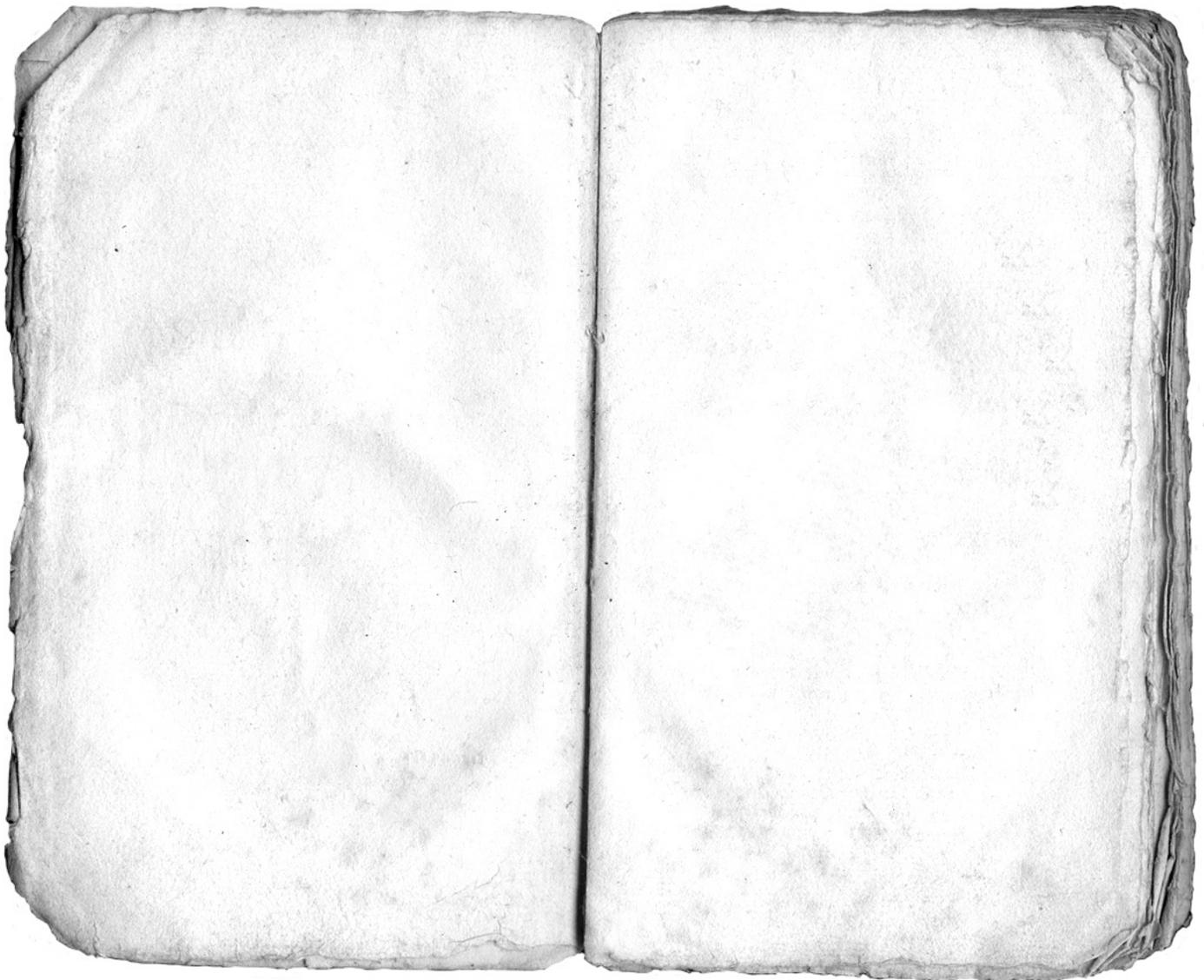
Extension Activities:

Diary Entry:

If you were living in 1215, who would you prefer to be?

- a) a baron
- b) the pope
- c) King John
- d) a serf

Explain why you chose this role and write a 1/2 page diary entry explaining your reaction to the Magna Carta. Illustrate your diary entry with a picture representing your daily life.





Design Your Own Seal

Throughout history, seals have been used to demonstrate the weight and authority of official documents. In ancient times, seals were often carved out of very strong materials such as bone or stone. The official copies of the Magna Carta had the King's Great Seal attached to them. The President of the United States has a seal as well. This seal can be seen throughout the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

1. List four symbols on the Seal of the President of the United States.

Symbol	What it Represents

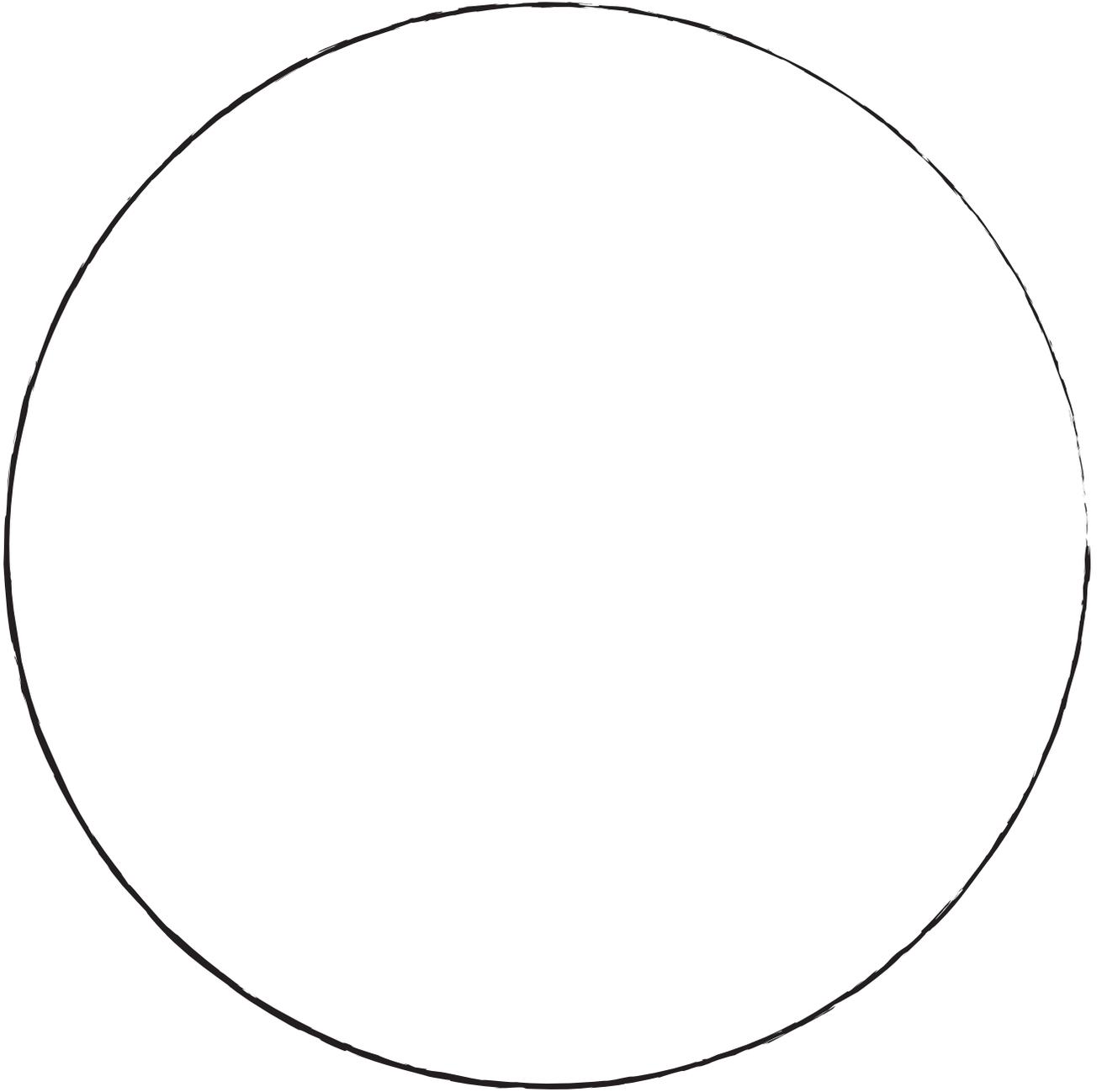
2. Go to <http://americanhistory.si.edu/presidency/5a2.html#> and click on Presidential Seals to determine what each of these symbols represent.
3. List four symbols you would like to include in your own seal. Explain why you chose each of these symbols in the space below.

Symbol	What it Represents



MY SEAL

Create your own seal in the space below based on the symbols you chose.





Buried Documents

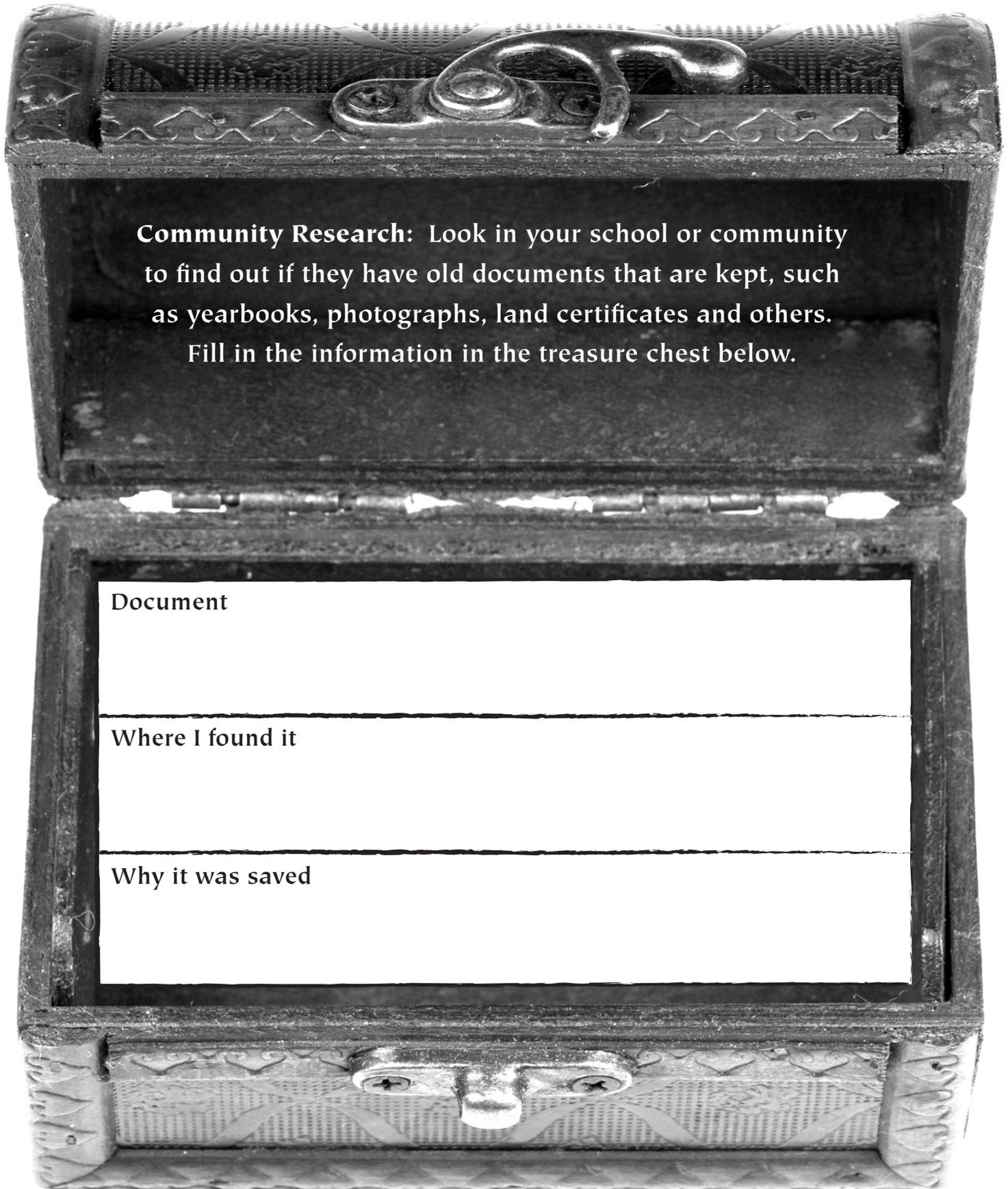
1. **Research:** Go to www.lincolncathedral.com to find out how the Magna Carta arrived at the Lincoln Cathedral. In three – five sentences, describe its journey in the space provided.

2. How many copies of the Magna Carta are known to exist?

3. **Imagine:** Pretend you found a buried document under your house.

- How would you find out if the document was valuable?
- What would you do with the document if it was valuable?
- What makes an old document valuable?

Buried Documents Activity

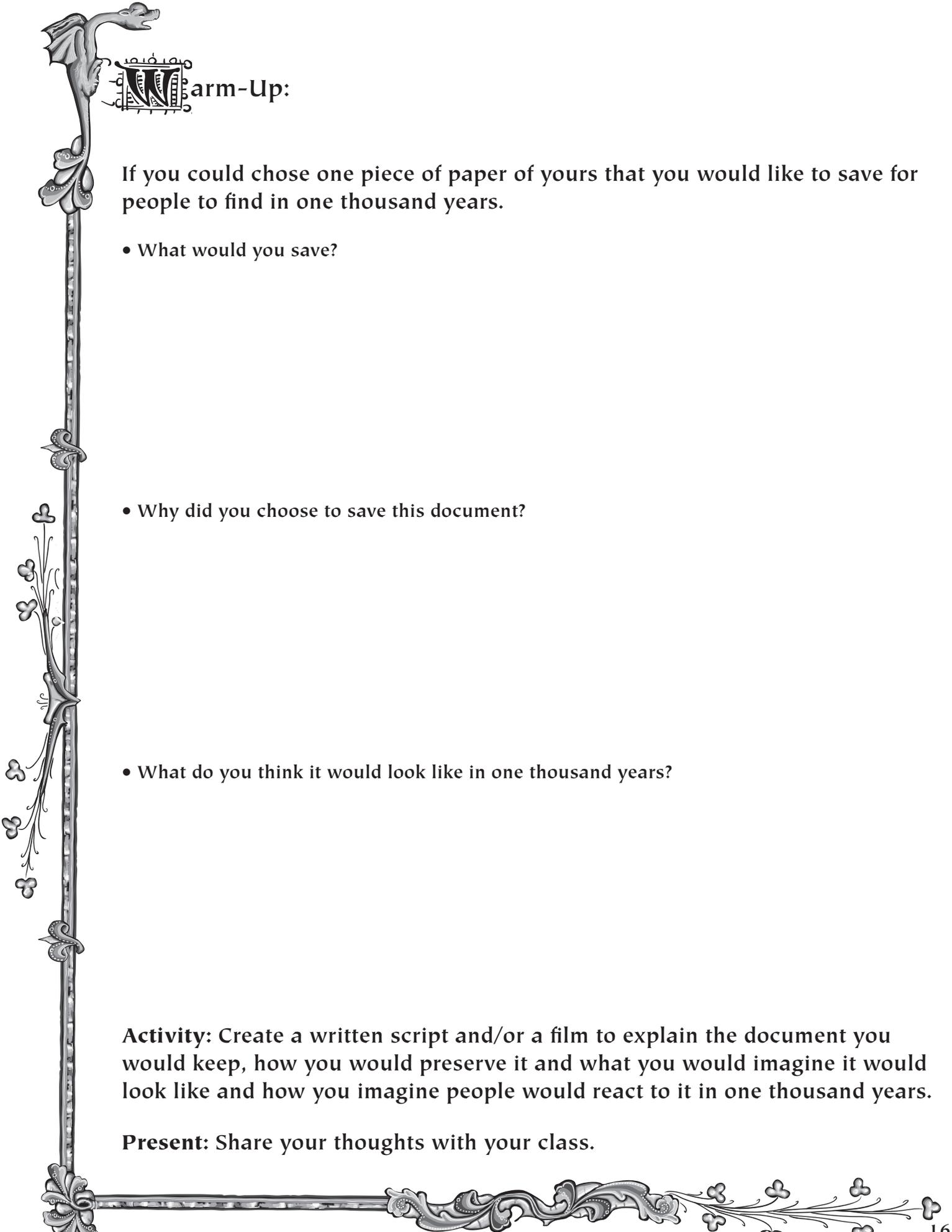


Community Research: Look in your school or community to find out if they have old documents that are kept, such as yearbooks, photographs, land certificates and others. Fill in the information in the treasure chest below.

Document

Where I found it

Why it was saved



Warm-Up:

If you could chose one piece of paper of yours that you would like to save for people to find in one thousand years.

- What would you save?
- Why did you choose to save this document?
- What do you think it would look like in one thousand years?

Activity: Create a written script and/or a film to explain the document you would keep, how you would preserve it and what you would imagine it would look like and how you imagine people would react to it in one thousand years.

Present: Share your thoughts with your class.

The Scribe:

The picture below which is also seen in the *Essence of Democracy* exhibit is of a medieval scribe.



Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-110307

Take a look at the picture and answer the following questions:

1. List three things you see in the room.
2. What is the scribe doing?
3. Would you like to work in this room? Why or why not?
4. List three ways in which important documents are copied today.
5. Does it matter how a document is copied? Why or why not?



Magna Carta Summary



Fill in the blanks in the spaces provided. Use the word list at the bottom for help.

The period between the fall of the Western Roman Empire in _____ and the Renaissance of the _____ century is known as the Middle Ages. The early part of this era is also known as the _____. This period was marked by struggles over territory on the battlefield and very little cultural or scientific achievements.

The Magna Carta (meaning “_____”) emerged out of the Middle Ages as a virtuous and noble set of ideas. This 1215 document created lasting effects around the world by shaping _____ governments. Essentially, it was forced on King _____ of England by a group of his subjects (the barons) to proclaim certain rights, respect legal procedures and accept that the King’s powers were limited by the _____. While it was created as a result of narrow interests, its lasting authority rests in the root of its message that government is a _____ and that rulers do not have the moral authority to simply impose their will.

In contemporary times, leaders, students and general citizenry alike turn to the Magna Carta for guidance on the rule of law and human rights. New democracies draw upon principles expressed in Magna Carta to establish just societies where all people are treated with dignity.

The most famous clauses from the Magna Carta are those referring to _____
– protection against imprisonment without cause.

Early calls for Women’s Rights were reflected in the Magna Carta as well regarding property and _____ rights for widows.

_____ drew upon the principles expressed in the Magna Carta when he wrote the *Declaration of Independence*.

Many other important documents were created on the basis of the ideas in the Magna Carta.

Word List:

Habeas Corpus
fifteenth
476 A.D.

Great Charter
Law
Thomas Jefferson

Marriage
Democratic
Dark Ages

Contract
John

otes



The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum Education Department



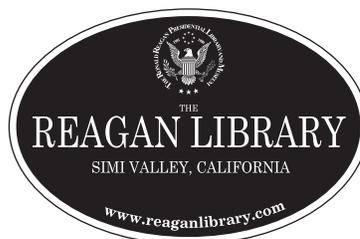
Additional Educational Opportunities at The Library:

- Investigate a rare 1823 printing of the Declaration of Independence
- Climb on board Air Force One and discover how seven former presidents used the aircraft to promote democracy around the world.
- Explore the history of the flying White House illustrated majestically on the walls of the Air Force One Pavilion.
- Visit an original piece of the Berlin Wall and discuss the effects of the Cold War.
- Examine an exact replica of the Oval Office.
- The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum contains artifacts from President Reagan's childhood and professional career as well as other objects and exhibits relating to the office of the presidency.

How to book a tour:

Call the Visitor's Center at 805-577-4066 to book your tour. In addition to pre-scheduled visits, docent-led and audio tours are available upon request. The museum is free for pre-scheduled school groups including one adult per ten elementary and secondary students.

For Educational information email reaganeducation@nara.gov



The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum
40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley, CA 93065
www.reaganlibrary.com